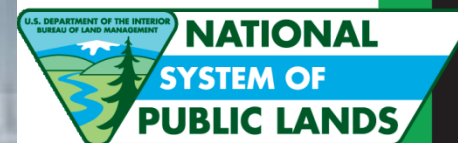


NEPA for Wind Energy Development

Wendy Seley, Realty Specialist
Renewable Energy Coordination Office (RECO)
Battle Mountain District, Tonopah Field Office

Mark Chandler, Realty Specialist
Renewable Energy Coordination Office (RECO)
Southern Nevada, Pahrump Field Office

September 2, 2009 – Renewable Energy Summit
Las Vegas, Nevada



Federal Agency Overview

BLM

- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act**
- **Existing Right-of-Way Regulations**
- **Final Programmatic Wind Energy EIS**
- **Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)**
- **BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1)**
- **Wind Energy Policies**
- **Wind Energy Best Management Practices (BMPs)**



Programmatic EIS on Wind Energy Development

- ROD signed on December 15, 2005
- Land Use Plan Amendments
(Amended 52 RMPs Bureau-wide)
- Best Management Practices
identified
- Adaptive Management Employed



BLM Wind Energy Policy

WO Instruction Memo 2006-216

WO Instruction Memo 2009-043 (update)

- **Established guidance on implementing PEIS ROD**
- **BLM Land Use Planning Handbook**
- **BLM NEPA Handbook**
- **Outlines types of permits**
- **High priority project**
- **Due Diligence**



Wind energy authorizations type

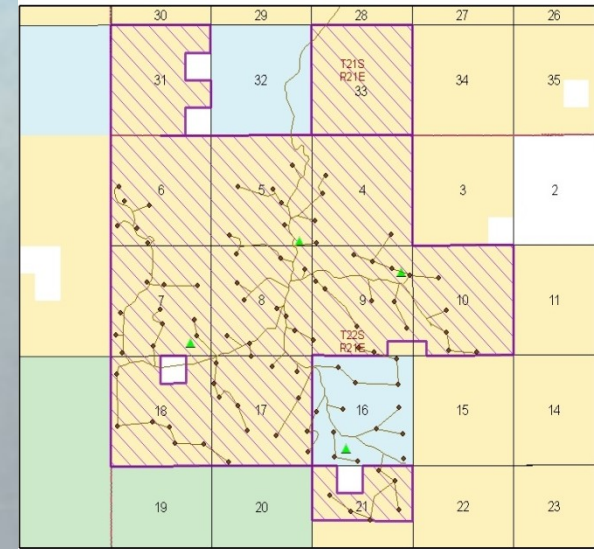
1. Site-Specific Wind Energy Testing and Monitoring Facilities

- **Met Towers**
- **May be issued to various right-of-way holder in the same area.**
- **\$100 per year rental fee for each tower – Bonding required per W.O. IM 2009-043**
- **Term limited to 3 year + Time to expire on Dec. 31; no renewal**
- **No Preferential Right to Development**



2. Wind Energy Site Testing and Monitoring Project Area

- Site testing and Monitoring project area (multiple met towers, many acres).
- \$1 per acre per year (\$1,000 minimum) rental
- Retains an interest to preclude other wind projects
- Term limited to 3 year + Time to expire on Dec. 31; Renewal permitted if development application filed
- Establishes no right to development



Due Diligence
**12 months to
install monitoring
facilities (site
testing and
monitoring
authorization)**

3. Commercial Wind Energy Development Facilities

- Requires application and POD
- Includes the wind turbine facilities, and infrastructure
- Separate linear authorizations may be required for off-site facilities
- Minimum rent (\$4,155 per megawatt per year)
 - Phased in (year 1 = 25%; year 2 = 50%; year 3 = 100%)
- Term generally 30 – 35 years

Due Diligence
**2 years to
construct
production
facilities
(development
authorization)**

Level of Activity - Nevada

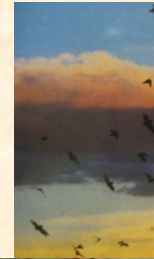
BLM Nevada

- 47 authorized leases (site testing/development met & project areas)
- 36 pending wind energy applications Nevada as of 8/27/2009
- 4 wind energy development (farm); pending applications



Best Management Practices

- **Reduce Avian Mortality**
 - ❖ Evaluate avian and bat use during site testing and monitoring
 - ❖ Bury all in-plant utility lines
 - ❖ Tubular towers
 - ❖ Avoid wetlands and waterfowl flight areas, saddles, end-row turbine placement
 - ❖ Avoid guy wires on permanent met towers



Best Management Practices

- **Visual Resources**

- ❖ **Similar turbine tower types**
- ❖ **Non-reflective paint**
- ❖ **No commercial messages on towers**
- ❖ **Minimum FAA lighting**
- ❖ **Tower color**



Best Management Practices

- **Safety**
 - ❖ **1½ times tower height setback from project area boundary**
 - ❖ **5 times rotor diameter setback from project boundary in dominant wind direction (up and down wind)**
 - ❖ **Discourage public entry into wind plant to balance public access and recreation opportunities**



Other Affected Agencies and Parties to Consider

- Nevada Division of State Lands
- NDOW
- Forest Service
- Department of Defense
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Groups
- Other Affected Parties



Web Resources

- **Wind Energy Programmatic EIS**
 - ❖ **www.windeis.anl.gov**
- **BLM Wind Energy Home Page**
 - ❖ **www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/wind_energy**
- **GeoCommunicator – NILS**
 - ❖ **www.geocommunicator.gov**
- **USFS Wind Energy Proposed Directive**
 - ❖ **www.fs.fed.us/recreation/permits/energy.htm**
- **DOE Wind Powering America Site**
 - ❖ **www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpower**
- **Energy Atlas**
 - ❖ **www.energyatlas.org**

